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TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1954

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Marginal Column

By EZRY LAQUEUR

THE goddess of justice, an unsmiling statue, looked down on the Foreign Ministers yesterday at their first session in the assembly hall of the "Kontrollrat." Mr. Molotov was nearest the door, but there is no reason to fear that he will need to go down to the air raid shelter as happened when he was last in Berlin for diplomatic talks in November, 1940. Mr. Eden was seated nearest to the windows, but one can be sure that he will not make a dramatic exit, as did Disraeli at another Berlin conference, and certainly not through the window. M. Bidault, who opened yesterday's session, faces Mr. Molotov; no personal friend of his. He had felt that he had been snubbed by the Soviet Minister, who he believed had tried to keep France out of the Big Power talks in 1946-48. But all this preceded the French crisis, and there will be no snubbing now. Mr. Dulles, who saw his first diplomatic conference fifty years ago said that he is happy to be in Berlin once again. He also wrote in his book, "War and Peace," that "agreements of limited scope may from time to time be practical and advantageous... (but) we should never make concessions, or alter our position merely... because we want a facade of agreement, irrespective of whether there is reality behind it." Mr. Molotov has written no books, but it can be taken that basically his approach is no different. His task is easier, as his public has not been nursed on false hopes.

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THERE has been a veritable competition between the statesmen of the East and of the West on the eve of the Berlin conference. They have all expressed hope, belief and confidence in its success, which is the proper thing for them to do. Nothing short of a miracle will bring about agreement between the powers on the question of Germany, and though miracles do happen sometimes, it should not be considered as certain that one will take place on this occasion. The attitude of the big powers has not changed in recent years: the West still insists on free elections as the first step and as a prerequisite for German unity. The East, in principle, has nothing against such elections, but objects very strongly to their assured results, and therefore considers the Western condition as definitely harmful and unacceptable. Official statements and authoritative press comment in recent days have shown that the attitude of both sides has stiffened even more, if possible, and that a retreat from their positions, as well-known steps 1948, is not contemplated. There is an outside chance that while agreeing to perpetuate the status quo in Germany, the Berlin conference will reach agreement on other issues. But in view of Russian reluctance to deal with the Austrian peace treaty as a separate issue, and American hesitance in regard to China, this also is a remote possibility. In such a situation, one must turn to the Swiss press, which has no axe to grind in Berlin and is neither naive nor cynical enough to hold out high hopes for the Berlin meeting. Only there does one find the obvious question asked as to the good that can possibly come out of Berlin in these circumstances.

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IT is felt that we shall yet have the opportunity to reply to that question. At the present moment it appears likely that the first hurdle, that of the agenda, will be taken, though it is difficult to predict in how many days or weeks. If the East should insist on German participation in the debates as far as her problem is concerned, it would seem that the conference will get bogged down on that issue. If that condition is not raised, the Foreign Ministers will have the opportunity for an exchange of opinion, which, of course, will not be binding on anyone. After four to six weeks, the Ministers will probably have had enough of Berlin (notwithstanding "Arabella" and Kafka's "Schloss" (as a play) in Western Berlin, and "Rosenkavalier" as well as a new piece by Berthold Brecht in the East), and the deputies will take over. Even in the 1949 Foreign Ministers' conference at the Palais des Roses there were some minor agreements (such as on the abolition of the Berlin blockade), and surely there will be something for the deputies to do on this occasion. No side is anxious to be blamed for being the first to break off the talks.

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IT would be good to feel more confident about the chances of the Berlin conference. Perhaps Mr. Molotov will surprise the world with a vision of lasting peace. Anything or almost anything can happen in politics, where, to quote the man who threatened to leave the Berlin Congress of 1878 "there is no finality." And the statesman who presided over the Congress remarked, quite rightly, that politics is not an exact science. Which, at the present time must be our main source of comfort, slender as it is.

Jerusalem, January 25.

West to Offer Precise Plan For German Unity—Eden

Molotov Lists Big 5 Talks First

BERLIN, Monday. — British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden told the USSR at the opening of the Big Four Foreign Ministers conference here today that the Western powers would put forward a detailed plan for German reunification — "the most urgent and dangerous of European problems."

Both he and French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault, who spoke first, urged that the conference confine itself to Germany and Austria.

But Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov made his expected call for discussion of international tension and a Five-Power Foreign Ministers meeting including People's China.

He listed this first on his proposed three-point agenda, followed by the German question and problems of ensuring European security and, thirdly, the Austrian treaty.

The Ministers' first session in the Allied Control Authority building in West Berlin lasted for nearly four hours. U.S. Secretary of State Dulles will reply to Mr. Molotov tomorrow.

Urges More Confidence

Mr. Eden told the four Foreign Ministers that their first task must be to encourage more confidence in relations between the West and the Soviet Union. He said that Britain could never be a party to any act of aggression and could never threaten the security of the Soviet Union. Britain is "unshakeably loyal" to her treaty of alliance with the USSR concluded during World War II, the British Minister declared, but if this and Britain's membership in the U.N. are not considered sufficient by Russia, Britain would be ready to examine that problem with her.

While stating that the object of the conference is to break down the barriers within Europe and encourage more confident East-West relations, Mr. Eden said that he believed in the doctrine of limited objectives, and thought that some restraint must be exercised in the topics chosen for discussion.

"World problems can best be solved and international tension eased if we deal patiently and resolutely with individual problems which confront the powers. We shall do more by removing one or two significant causes of tension than by discussing tension in the abstract," he declared.

Free Choice Essential

The British Minister stated that there were certain considerations regarding German reunification, which would be a mockery without the free choice and consent of the German people. That is why Britain has for so long insisted that free elections throughout Germany are the essential first step.

He added that "free elections should result in an all-German national assembly. Its first task would be to prepare a constitution to facilitate the early formation of an all-German government. The administrations in the Federal Republic and in East Germany must remain in being at least until this all-German government has been set up.

"I understand that the Soviet Government shares our views on this point. Once the constitution has been adopted and approved, the all-German government would be formed in accordance with its terms.

"In our view, the all-German government should be free to assume any international rights and obligations of either regime.

"The peace treaty should be negotiated with this representative all-German government which must itself have the basic right of all free democratic nations to associate with other nations for peaceful purposes," he concluded.

Germany Not Isolated

Mr. Molotov, who followed Mr. Eden, declared it was quite obvious that the German question could not be considered as an isolated question and that consideration of the German problem was indissolubly connected with the whole problem of ensuring security in Europe.

He said the German question should be settled in a way that would exclude the possibility of new attempts of German militarism "to unleash a third world war."

The reunion of Germany and the creation of an all-German government was indissolubly bound up with the question of whether a united Germany was going to be a peaceful democratic state or whether it again became a militarized and aggressive state. "This also indicates the inadmissibility of involving Germany as a whole, or any part of it, into a grouping such as the European Defence Community, which constitutes a military bloc of a group of European countries directed against other European states."

The Soviet Minister said the creation of a European Army "may lead to the creation of a defensive alliance of other European countries for the purpose of safeguarding their security." Then Europe would split into two opposing military groupings of states and this would inevitably increase danger of a new war in Europe. He was sure this Soviet view coincided with the interests of France, Poland, Britain, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and "other peace-loving peoples of Europe and outside Europe."

He said the question of calling a Five-Power conference deserved the most serious attention, and expressed his readiness to put forward an appropriate specific proposal for calling a Five-Power meeting which could take place some time after the Berlin conference. Such a meeting was necessary first and foremost in order to put an end to the armaments race, he added.

Attacks U.S. Bases

The Soviet Minister sharply attacked U.S. foreign bases and rejected the Western contention that they are defensive. The establishment of such bases in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East has nothing to do with defence, he charged.

Mr. Molotov called for a "considerable" reduction of armaments by the big powers and total prohibition of "atomic, hydrogen and other such weapons."

Earlier reference to atomic weapons was made by M. Bidault, who opened the meeting. He said that President Eisenhower's plan for pooling atomic energy allowed the world for the first time "to visualize real progress toward a solution of the problems of the atomic menace."

Linked With West

On the question of Germany, M. Bidault said the French Government "has always believed and still believes that in order to prevent the dangers of German militarism it is desirable to allow Germany to enter into an alliance of a strictly defensive character." He added: "The destiny of democracy in Germany is linked with the association of Germany with the West."

The French Minister said it must be made clear that the defensive efforts of the West "cannot be a matter for bargaining at this conference," and that peace could not be obtained by attempts to divide the West. He also stressed that Asian and European problems should be settled separately, and "it is to European problems that our meeting, by its very nature, must be devoted."

(Reuter, UP)

NNRC Majority Raps Release of PoW's

PANMUNJOM, Monday (Reuter).—Indian, Polish and Czech delegates of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission today expressed "strong disapproval" of the release by the U.N. of prisoners handed back to them by the Indian custodian force, a Commission spokesman said.

The Swiss and Swedish delegates approved the U.N. action, he stated.

The Commission is taking no official action on the matter, he added.

Meanwhile, five American ships escorted by an American destroyer arrived at Formosa's northern port of Keelung today with 2,892 Chinese prisoners of war from Korea. They are the first group of 14,000 Chinese prisoners—now regarded as civilians—on their way to Formosa.

In Korea's demilitarized zone, about 350 prisoners who have refused to return to their non-Communist homes were still in their northern prison compound today—three days after 22,000 North Korean and Chinese prisoners had reverted to civilian status. The 350 prisoners have chosen Communism, but the Communists refuse to accept them from the Indian custodian force on the ground that all prisoners should have been held for a full 90 days of "come home" explanations.

The Communists have supplied them with sufficient rations for one week, and the Indians say that there is an adequate fuel and water supply in the camp.

W.H.O. Refers Israel-Arab Dispute to World Body

GENEVA, Monday (Reuter). — The executive board of the World Health Organization today voted unanimously to pass a three-year-old dispute between Israel and the Arab States back to the World Health Assembly which meets here in May.

The differences arose in 1951 when the Arabs refused to attend meetings of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Committee if representatives of Israel were present. The Regional Committee has not met since.

Mr. S.A. Mahmoud of Egypt, addressing the board, accused Israel of "sabotaging" all attempts to reach a compromise solution and of "acting in bad faith."

Israel insisted on remaining in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region although she was a member of the European group of the Food and Agriculture Organization, he said.

Dr. M. Kahany, Israel permanent delegate to the U.N. Geneva office, suggested today to the 13th session of the WHO Executive Board that its chairman should state "very frankly" that it had been impossible to arrange meetings of the eastern Mediterranean regional committee of WHO, and that "it would be better to await more propitious times in order to undertake a reexamination of this question."

Hemingway Survives Two Plane Crashes

KAMPALA, UGANDA, Monday (Reuter).—Ernest Hemingway, 55, author of hard-bitten action novels, this weekend survived a series of air crash adventures as exciting as any from the pages of his books.

A plane which he was flying with his wife from Nairobi over Murchison Falls crashed on Saturday. They were picked up unharmed by a tourist launch and embarked on another plane which had been searching for them.

It crashed and burned on takeoff but Mr. and Mrs. Hemingway and other passengers again escaped unharmed.

The hard-living Hemingway has been in East Africa for several months hunting and studying the Mau Mau situation.

Hemingway suffered only a slightly injured arm in his two close brushes with death. His wife, the former war correspondent, Mary Welsh, was not even scratched.

W. Berlin's Silent Demonstration

BERLIN, Monday (Reuter). — Thousands of West Berliners observed a three-minute silence this morning, called for by their city parliament to mark the opening of the Four-Power conference and show their vital interest in the talks.

Vehicles halted and pedestrians stood still in the gently falling snow. In hotels and offices, telephone switchboard operators refused calls during the silence.

Close by, on the Russian side of the boundary, uniformed People's Police and plainclothesmen with white arm-bands ignored the silent demonstration. They stamped their feet on the ground and vigorously clapped their hands to keep warm.

On the British side, where the Soviet war memorial with its enthroned tanks and guns is guarded by Russian soldiers, West Sector police again blocked traffic. The Russian soldiers on duty at the memorial looked on indifferently.

Only the overhead railway, which is administered by the East Berlin authorities, continued to run in West Berlin.

UK Considering Action on Cairo's Suez Blockade

LONDON, Monday (Reuter).—Britain is considering what international action can be taken over Egypt's "apparent intention" to extend her blockade on ships going through the Suez Canal.

The British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, said in the Commons that during the past few weeks there had been an apparent intention to extend this blockade to a cargo of meat, and latterly to small Norwegian cargo which included some clothing.

That was going "far beyond chemicals or arms or anything of that sort. The Government takes a serious view of this matter and is now considering what further steps could be taken," he declared.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Clement Attlee, had asked what the Government is doing to get concerted action between the nations and if necessary bring the matter before the International Court.

British Ships

Replying to Mr. Emanuel Shinwell (Labour), Mr. Lloyd said that between 1948 and 1950, 28 British ships had been delayed or turned back by the Egyptian Government on account of cargoes for Israel which were held to be contraband. Two other British ships were held up in 1952.

Since then, no British ship had been detained, but a small cargo was confiscated from a Norwegian ship early this month.

Mr. Shinwell thought it a disgraceful outrage that so many British vessels should be interfered with in violation of international law.

He asked what steps had been taken to question the right of Egypt to interfere with vessels passing through the Suez Canal.

Mr. Lloyd replied that the British Government had persistently refused to recognize the right of Egypt to impose restrictions on the passage of cargo through the Canal.

Recalls 1951 Action

He added that Britain, France, and the U.S. had signed the resolution of August 1951, calling upon the Egyptian Government to put an end to this practice.

Mr. Shinwell asked whether, in the present negotiations, this matter is being considered, and Mr. Lloyd replied that the general question of freedom of passage through the Canal is being considered.

Mr. Shinwell asked the Minister to be more specific and to say whether, in the course of the present negotiations with the Egyptian Government, Egypt is being asked to cease from violating the international law in respect of the free passage of vessels through the Canal.

Mr. Lloyd replied, "The question of any breach of the U.N. resolution of 1951 is not under negotiation at the present time."

Lloyd: No Talks with Egypt While Troops Attacked

LONDON, Monday (Reuter). — Britain has made it quite clear to Egypt that a satisfactory agreement with her over the Suez Canal Zone cannot be reached while attacks are made on British soldiers, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Selwyn Lloyd said today.

He told the Commons that the Foreign Office considers that the Egyptian authorities have the power to prevent these incidents if they wish.

Spanish Students Clash With Police in Anti-British Riots

MADRID, Monday. — Police opened fire over the heads of a seething mob of 8,000 students today to protect the British Embassy in the first bloody clash in Spain's double-barrelled diplomatic tussle with France and Britain.

Wave after wave of angry youths screaming, "Give us Gibraltar" stormed the shuttered, police-ringed Embassy, until authorities ordered officers to fire over the heads of the demonstrators.

The British Embassy here was heavily guarded by mounted police. Apparently police had instructions not to let the students reach the Embassy, for all roads leading to it were blocked.

All morning, the students had marched through the streets of Madrid shouting anti-British slogans. One group carried a placard saying "Cuidado Reina Isabel" ("Be Careful, Queen Elizabeth.")

Scores of students limped away bleeding from head and face wounds, and two policemen were reported seriously injured by stones the students had hurled.

Half a dozen windows were broken by the demonstrators in a branch of the Bank of London and South America.

As the demonstrations were taking place, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, told the House of Commons that Britain would take a serious view if Spain organized any hostile demonstrations during Queen Elizabeth's visit to Gibraltar in May.

Mr. George Jager (Labour) urged the Minister to suspend the sale of arms to Spain until hostile references to Gibraltar cease. Mr. Lloyd rejected this saying, "If the arms we send to Spain are likely to make any difference between the relations of our two countries it would be a different matter. In fact, the sale of arms to Spain is governed by commercial considerations."

(UP, Reuter)

France Moves Exiled Sultan from Corsica

AJACCIO, Corsica, Monday (Reuter). — The deposed Sultan of Morocco, Sidi Mohammed ben Yussef, was taken by special plane from Bastia early today for an unknown destination. A French Government official accompanied the party.

Ben Yussef has been living in Corsica since he was deposed from the Moroccan throne last August for alleged connections with extreme nationalists and for allegedly obstructing French reform plans to give the country a wider measure of democracy.

In Paris, the French Government declined to disclose the ex-Sultan's destination, but usually well-informed sources said that he would be flown via Madagascar to an island in the New Caledonia group, France's "furthest possessions in the Pacific.

PLANE FIRED ON FROM JORDAN

A Piper Cub plane, carrying civilian passengers, was fired on at 3.45 yesterday afternoon from Jordan, while it was flying north of Tel Hazeva, lying across the border from Tulkarm, the Army spokesman announced.

The plane was not hit.

Israel has submitted a complaint to the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission, it was said.

Sharett Presents New Government to Knesset

Confidence Vote Expected Today

By SHAYA SHALUBO, Jerusalem Post Knesset Correspondent

Mr. Sharett, the Prime Minister-Designate, yesterday presented to the Knesset a 15-member Cabinet, composed of representatives of the Mapai, General Zionist, Hapoel Hamizrahi and Mizrahi parties. The portfolio of the Minister of Justice, held in the last Cabinet by a member of the Progressive Party, has been left vacant; hopes are still maintained that that party will join the new coalition shortly. Mr. Sharett said. Mr. Z. Aranne (Mapai) is being proposed as Minister without portfolio to fill the place left vacant by Mr. Ben Gurion. The only other change in the composition of the Cabinet is that Mr. P. Lavon, Minister without Portfolio, is named a Minister of Defence —apart from Mr. Sharett succeeding Mr. Ben Gurion as Premier.

The programme of the new Cabinet is, to all intents and purposes, practically the same as that of the previous Cabinet, Mr. Sharett stated. His cabinet, Israel's sixth, should be regarded as the continuation of the last.

Calls for Support

The new Government, he said, "calls upon all citizens without distinction of community or class" to give the Government their support. The Government "will strive to secure an equitable distribution of the burdens of citizenship." Permanent accommodation, increased immigration, and "safeguarding Israel's independence and security" were among the aims stressed by Mr. Sharett. "A hand of brotherhood" was extended to "the Jewish people in all countries," and especially to the Zionist movement and "those parts of the Jewish People who are today condemned to mute isolation — an obvious reference to the Jews behind the Iron Curtain.

The new Cabinet is expected to be sworn-in tonight after the eight-hour debate, half of which took place yesterday. The Coalition partners command 80 members in the 120-man House.

The presentation of the Cabinet was the culmination of the involved and complicated negotiations which have continued for the past 50 days. Two coalition agreements were signed in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem at 11 a.m. yesterday, one between Mapai and the General Zionists; the other, regarding religious questions by all the coalition parties.

The negotiations had been so protracted, and at times so acrimonious, that observers thought yesterday that the Cabinet's life expectancy was short. Yet, this was not the feeling perceptible in the speeches of members of the coalition in yesterday's general debate. The clash of the negotiations was now in the past; everyone stressed that "coalition meant compromise," and expressed the hope that a *modus vivendi* had been found for a stable Government. At last, the Government will continue in office until the summer of 1955 when, according to law, general elections are to be held. Those in the Knesset lobby who ventured to prophesy finally admitted that the chances of the new Cabinet might well be better than expected. The General Zionists would think twice before leaving the Cabinet on the eve of the elections so as not to jeopardize their chances of eliminating the Progressive Party by means of the "four per cent clause." That clause, one in the agreement between Mapai and the General Zionists, would bar Knesset representation to any party unable to secure at least four per cent of the total vote.

It was because of their opposition to this clause that the Progressives refused to enter the Coalition. Speaking with deep feeling, yet quietly, Mr. I. Harari, the Progressive spokesman, was critical of the attempts to invite the party to join the Government despite the clause. "If our presence is so necessary to the general welfare of the State, why not give up the unfortunate clause? One would think that the clause should be waived if only to permit Mr. Rosen, the man who built the Legislature of the State, to remain in office."

Present in Spirit

Although Mr. Ben Gurion is in the distant Negev, his spirit was present in the House during the debate. Mr. Y. Hazan (Mapam), who opened the debate, said outspokenly that he was "glad" that Mr. Ben Gurion had resigned, for in him he saw the "evil spirit" which had prevented "the natural collaboration of the labour parties in the government," as they worked together in the Histadrut. Had Mapai consented to form "a spinal column" for a Labour government with Mapam, this country would be saved. But Mapai did not agree during its negotiations with Mapam to change its foreign policy in respect of the U.S.S.R. beyond what had been said in the Government's Note to Mr. Molotov, Mr. Hazan complained. An understatement in Mr. Hazan's speech was noticed by everyone. "Defence," he said, "is our mutual concern. Any attempt to infringe on the integrity of the State will find us united in our efforts to defend it until our last drop of blood." Mr. Hazan did not care to stress, as he had done on many previous occasions, that his followers would not fight Soviet Russia.

Reference to Mr. Ben Gurion and pledges "to continue along the road he had indicated" were the starting points in the speeches of Mr. Akiva Govrin, one of the Coalition's "godfathers," and Mr. B. Asaryah, both Mapai. Mr. Govrin admitted that the negotiations had left an unsavoury flavour: they were proof that "we have still to learn the art of statesmanship." The "philosophy of the spinal column is absurd," he claimed: Mapam finds it possible to participate in the Jewish Agency coalition with the General Zionists for the general good.

It was clear from what Mr. H. Arlav (General Zionist) said that despite cooperation within the coalition, his party is far from accepting the general outlook of its larger partner. He made no bones about the difficulties of working together, past and future. The crisis, he stated, had been necessary as a means of obtaining better guarantees to implement what

(Continued on Page 2, — Col. 8)

Text of Mr. Sharett's Statement on P. 3

Proposed Cabinet

The following are the members of the new Cabinet:

Moshe Sharett — Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.
Zalman Aranne — Minister without Portfolio.
Levi Eshkol — Minister of Finance.
Joseph Y. Burg — Posts.
Pinchas Rosenblueth — Commerce and Industry.
Benzion Dinur — Education and Culture.
Dov Joseph — Development.
Pinhas Lavon — Defence.
Golda Myerson — Labour.
Peretz Naphtali — Agriculture.
Joseph Saphir — Communications.
Joseph Serlin — Health.
Israel Rokach — Interior.
Behor Shitreet — Police.
Moshe Shapiro—Religious Affairs and Social Welfare.

Coalition Accords Are Signed

Four documents, making the present coalition possible, were signed in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem at 11 a.m. yesterday. Prime Minister-Designate Sharett, Minister of Labour Myerson, and Messrs. Argov and Govrin signed for Mapai. Minister of Commerce Bernstein, of Interior Rokach, of Communications Saphir and of Health Serlin for the General Zionists; Minister of Religious Affairs Shapiro; Minister of Posts Burg and Mr. M. Chazani, for Hapoel Hamizrahi; and Rabbi M. Nurock and Mr. S. Rosenberg, for Mizrahi.

The two documents signed by the Mapai and the General Zionists are the original draft, written by Mr. Sharett on January 14, and the amendment relegating to the Cabinet the decision on Deputy-Ministership of Education. All three parties signed the agreement on guarantees to the Orthodox, and the Religious parties signed a memorandum that they took note that the Deputy-Minister-ship issue had been referred to the Government.

Main Points

The main points of the Mapai-General Zionist agreement include a promise to achieve a partial de-control of foreign currency; a joint licensing office to be created by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministries concerned to ratify import licenses; the Reparations Company not to be able to sell goods unless the relevant Ministry agrees; the Minister concerned will be able to re-distribute his Ministry's allocation of foreign currency without the consent of the Finance Ministry; the Development Budget of the Ministry of Interior to be spent by the Ministry, and not by the Ministries of Development or Labour, as hitherto.

Under the agreement, there is to be greater collaboration between the military authorities and the civilian district administrators in areas under military rule. It was also decided to form a committee to watch that the newspapers of the two parties maintain a respectful tone in dealing with possible future differences.

The agreement with the Religious parties promises quick handling of the pig-farming problem; speedy presentation to the Knesset of Bills on religious judges and courts; and special facilities to Orthodox soldiers enabling them to lead a religious life within the Army.

(Pictures, — Page 9)

Saud Redeploys Troops To Help Jordan

King Saud of Saudi Arabia yesterday ordered a redistribution of his country's troops stationed in the northern section of the Hedjaz Railway, ANA reports. A number of mobile units are to be placed along the Saudi Arabian-Jordan frontier in order to be ready to cross into Jordan at a moment's notice and aid the Arab Legion repulse any Israel attack.

Reporting this from Badana, ANA says that the order was one of the major results of the meeting between King Saud and King Hussein of Jordan. King Hussein returned to Amman yesterday afternoon.

NEARS reports that during the meeting, King Saud declared his readiness to contribute 50,000 dinars from his own pocket towards the maintenance of the National Guard.

Bennike Sees Nagib

General Vagn Bennike, U.N. Truce Supervision Chief, was received yesterday morning by President Nagib of Egypt, NEARS reports. Also present were M. Henri Vigier and Mr. Paul Cremona, his political advisers, and Major Salah Jawhar, Egypt's senior delegate to the Mixed Armistice Commission.

Major Jawhar was reported as saying that the situation in the demilitarized zone of Auja el Hafir and "other pending issues" between Egypt and Israel were discussed.

General Bennike is to return to Jerusalem tomorrow before visiting Beirut and Damascus.

Arabs Reject US Offer To Settle 8,000 Refugees

The Political Committee of the Arab League decided yesterday to reject the offer recently made by a U.S. Congressional subcommittee to resettle 2,000 Palestine Arab refugees and 4,000 refugee orphans in the U.S., NEARS reports.

The committee, meeting in Cairo, explained its decision by declaring that such a transfer of refugees would weaken the League's policy of settling all refugees near Palestine in order to strengthen their claim to the right to return to their former homes.

The Political Committee will hold its final meeting this morning, and will submit its recommendations to the League Council which is to meet tonight.

The League's Finance Committee in its final session yesterday decided to allocate L.E. 70,000 to open an Arab League propaganda office in the U.S. The committee also decided to reduce the League's 1954 budget from L.E.300,000 to L.E.200,000.

Meanwhile, a committee of editors, representing all leading Egyptian newspapers, decided yesterday in Cairo to boycott all Arab League news. This is a protest against the decision of the League's Secretariat not to publish any decisions of the League's committees before they are approved by the Council.

Soviet Veto Takes Britain by Surprise

NEW YORK, Monday (INA).—Although the Soviet veto of the Western Powers' resolution on the Syrian complaint was not entirely unexpected, it floored the British delegation and left it completely without plans for further action or possible ideas for a settlement of the Syrian-Israel dispute, it was learned today.

A spokesman for the delegation said that he did not see any possibility of action for the next few weeks and that the only possible procedure then would be something along the lines of the second Lebanese resolution.

He called this a simple resolution which merely instructs General Bennike to do all in his power to reach a compromise. However, he added, the British do not agree to the paragraph which requires Syrian consent to the development project.

While the Arabs have grounds for concern that in the absence of a resolution, Israel may be free to resume work on the project, the British spokesman commented that the legal position is that the question is still in the hands of the Security Council and thus Israel is not free to resume work.

SHIP IT BY KLM

FLU FIGHTER-
COLD KILLER

Who — what? Brandy of course. Our medical men have not yet found a sure cure for the common cold — or the flu. All agree, however, that Rishon Medicinal Brandy taken straight or in tea is a most effective and pleasant tonic against these two winter evils.

Rishon Medicinal Brandy has extra effectiveness in the face of winter illness. Let Carmel Oriental help you to health this winter.

DUBEK 10
FINER FLAVOUR THROUGH MACEDONIAN TOBACCO

Social & Personal

President and Mrs. Ben-Zvi called on Knesset Speaker Yosef Sprinzak last night to wish him godspeed, Mr. Sprinzak is leaving today for France, to attend the Conference of the French Zionist Federation.

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Mme. du Bois, wife of the Belgian Minister, and Mme. O. Seifert, wife of the Swiss Minister, were among the guests at a tea party given yesterday by Mrs. Paulette Ferdman, formerly of Geneva, at her Tel Aviv residence, in honour of Miss Iris Levy, Chairman of the Wizo Tourist Department, on her return from a lengthy stay abroad. Mrs. Rebecca D. Sieff, World President of Wizo, Mrs. Rosa Ginossar, Chairman, and members of the Wizo Executive and the Tourist Hospitality Committee also were present.

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Mr. Grant Purves, First Secretary (Information) of the British Embassy in Tel Aviv, has been appointed Chief of Chancery at the British Embassy in Siam and will be leaving shortly for Britain before taking up his new post.

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M. Jean Pinchon, Secretary of the French Agricultural Workers' Union, here on a UNESCO exchange scholarship, was the guest of the Histadrut Executive yesterday.

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Mrs. Rebecca Shulman, National President of Hadassah, left by Sabena for New York yesterday, after a month's visit to attend the meetings of the Zionist General Council and for conferences on Hadassah affairs.

•

Mr. George Machline, local manager of Sabena, returned yesterday by Sabena from a visit to his head office in Brussels.

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Professor Abba Lerner, of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Office, will lecture on "Inflation and Deflation" at 8.30 p.m. tomorrow in the Lecture Hall of the Shevah Building, Tel Aviv, under the auspices of the School of Law and Economics.

•

BIRTH

MITCHNICK — To Anita (née Benda) wife of Rav-Seren Shimon Mitchnick, of Ramat Gan — a son. The Brith Milah will take place at the Kupat Holim Maternity Home, Kfar Saba on Thursday, January 28, at 11 a.m.

Where to go

JERUSALEM

★ **Libraries:** —
American Library and Reading Room, U.S. Consulate, Mamillah Rd. Entrance free. 9-1, 2-6.

★ **Archaeology:** —
Permanent exhibition and finds from excavation near Bin Gedi. Dept. of Antiquities, 25 Rehov Shlomo Hamelech. Daily 9-1.

★ **Exhibitions:** —
Drawings by Leopold Krakauer. Copper works by Abraham Habbah. Memorial exhibition: Copper engravings by Joseph Hecht. Old Dutch and Italian Masters. Exhibit of the month: Blue glass bottle, Palestinian workshop, first century C.E. National Museum Beaulef. 9-1, 2-5.
Paintings by Melita Schiffer and David Wittman, auspices: The Israel Painters and Sculptors Association, Artists' House. 10-1, 4-6.

★ **Tours:** —
Hebrew University conducted tour, new administration building, King George Ave., opposite Terra Sancta. 10 a.m.

★ **Film Show:** —
Karen Hayesod, 11.30-12.30.

TEL AVIV

★ **Exhibitions:** —
a) Oil Paintings, Gouaches and Woodcuts by Ya'acov Eisenscher.
b) Oil Paintings and drawings by R. Louisidis.
"Leonardo the Artist and Man of Science," photographs and reproductions "Illustrated Manuscripts." Sketches by Leopold Krakauer. Municipal Museum, 10-4 p.m.

★ **Theatre:** —
"Pygmalion," Chamber Theatre, Mograbi, 8 p.m.

★ **Entertainment:** —
Concert at Noga Cafe, from 5 p.m. to 12 midnight.
Dance and dine at the Cocktail Bar.

RAMAT GAN

★ **Theatre:** —
De-Re-Mi, "Countess Maritza," Operetta, Rama Cinema, 8.30 p.m.

HADERA

★ **Theatre:** —
Habimah, "Most Cruel — The King", 8 p.m.

BEERSHEBA

★ **Theatre:** —
"Home and Sea," Chamber Theatre, 8 p.m.

VISITORS' GALLERY

Robert Szold

FOR close to three decades, Robert Szold, President of the Palestine Economic Corporation-U.S.A., distinguished Zionist and equally distinguished American attorney, has ardently believed that the greatest natural resource available for the upbuilding of Zion is the individual Jewish citizen, his energy and his drive. Just as ardently, Mr. Szold has laboured throughout these decades to enable the individual to work and build.

The PEC President, who is arriving in Israel today for conferences with Government officials and business leaders on PEC's economic activities on behalf of Israel, summed up his philosophy in an address at a testimonial dinner held in his honour at New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel last month, in which he said:

> Our common cause is no less than that the State of Israel may endure. The State, conceived in idealism, established by military valour and by providentially guided statesmanship, shall not founder on economic instability. If the State is to persist, there must be a sound economic base.
>
> That base has not yet been established. The time has come when the great resources of American methods and private capital must be thrown into the balance. We would now supplement and gradually supplant improvisations with the free play of powerful normal economic forces.

Mr. Szold also stressed that he believed in the "introduction of American know-how; of efficiency and productivity of labour; of standards of reliability; of those individual economic incentives which now make America the greatest country in the world."

First Trip

Mr. Szold, who joined the Zionist movement together with the late Justice Louis Brandeis of the U.S. Supreme Court, made his initial trip to Palestine in 1919 as a member of the first Zionist Commission, and returned here two years later as a member of an inquiry body. Like Justice Brandeis, he became convinced that the energies of private initiative could best rebuild the desert land and that, as a logical sequence, every effort should be made to "help the little man help himself."

The result: the establishment of what later became the Palestine Economic Corporation, to "give material aid on a strictly business basis to productive Palestinian enterprises and thereby further the economic development of the Holy Land and the resettlement there of an increasing number of Jews."

Through this organization, Mr. Szold played a major role in the founding of the Central Bank for Cooperative Institutions (now the Canada-Israel Central Bank), which pioneered the establishment of modern cooperative credit principles; and the Mortgage and Savings Bank, which pioneered in extending mortgages to enable low-income immigrants to obtain their own homes.

For Mr. Szold, whose noted career in the law has included service as Attorney General of Puerto Rico and Assistant Solicitor-General of the U.S., Zionism has been a continuing interest. President of the Zionist Organisation of America in 1931-33, he has been head of PEC since 1944 and has seen the company grow into the largest American investment firm in Israel (with over $30m. in resources).

> Today, as decades ago, he believes in Israel's future, declaring "After economic stability shall have been achieved, when jobs are secure, and bread is earned, Jewish genius will again flower; new ethical concepts will evolve; and new Psalms will be written."
>
> *A.R.*

'Dunkirk Failure Not Fault of Hitler'

LONDON, Monday (Reuter). — Hitler was not to blame for the German Army's failure to annihilate the British Army at Dunkirk in 1940, an official war volume declared today.

The volume, second of a series of war histories written with Government approval, states that German military ologists claimed that Adolf Hitler's "amateur interference" in the campaign had allowed the British to escape.

But the author, Major M. Feis, said that Hitler was often right and deserved part of the credit for German successes.

The failure to capture the British army was the responsibility of the German generals and Air Force chiefs.

The spectacular pace at which Holland, Belgium, and France were conquered owed much to good planning and the skill with which German operations were conducted.

Public Baths Preferred

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TIBERIAS, Monday. — Although the number of persons using private bathing facilities in Hamei Tveria dropped from 7,000 last season to 1,100 this, the number of bathers has decreased only slightly since public baths are being used more frequently.

This was revealed recently by Mr. A. Rechtman and Mr. M. Hamier, Directors of the Baths, who noted that 26,000 tickets were sold in 1952/53 as compared with 25,000 this year.

The number of guests in hotels is much smaller, however, since many more persons are staying at less expensive boarding houses or in rented rooms, it was said. The usual holiday crowd, who come primarily for the milder climate and not the spa, have not appeared this year.

'BOTH SIDES WILL USE A-WEAPONS'

WASHINGTON, Monday (Reuter). — Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Field Marshal Montgomery said in an interview published here today that both sides would use atomic weapons if they had them in a third world war.

He told the magazine "U.S. News and World Report," which interviewed him in Paris, that it was too early to say how atomic weapons would affect the size of the ground forces needed to defend Europe.

Asked whether atomic weapons would be useful in the defence of Western Europe, Montgomery replied, "Certainly."

AT THE CINEMA

"COIFFEUR Pour Dames" (Orna, Jlem), based on a comedy by Armont and Gerbidon, is an hilarious farce about Mario (Fernandel), a former sheep-shearer from Provence. After hair-styles on dolls and meeting the right girl, he decides to take Paris by storm. During his meteoric career as an ace-coiffeur, he creates highly individual hair-styles reminiscent of the world-famous king of all coiffeurs, Antoine, to whose autobiography "Antoine by Antoine" this uproarious comedy has some parallels. Notwithstanding his ever-loving wife the contemporary Figaro flirts with his customers for the sake of his fashionable salon and working capital. His musical fingers and virtuoso performances effect miracles of rejuvenation and cement shattered marriages, and he is formally decorated. Fernandel creates a marvellous Mario, full of Southern-French vitality and sparkling with golden humour. The film is turbulentity directed by Jean Boyer and produced by the famous jazz-band leader Ray Ventura. The brilliant cast includes Georges ("Comédie Française") Charmat; Renée Devillers; and Arlette Poirier.

Crooks and Politics

"ALIAS Nick Beal" (Arnon, Jlem) is a sinister melodrama about the trials and tribulations of Joseph Foster (Thomas Mitchell), during an election campaign for the position of State Governor. He is shadowed by a Mephisto-like man of many names, many loves, many victims (Ray Milland), who has a terrible power over a dame (Audrey Totter). The election candidate wins a desperate struggle against corruption, bookies and attendant evils.

Romantic Adventure Story

IN his extensive appreciation of Stendhal's "La Chartreuse de Parme" (Edison, Jlem) Balzac qualified it as a "novel of ideas." Paradoxically, Paul Valéry, in his essay on Stendhal, wrote of the same great novel that it brought to mind an operetta. Perhaps he was reminded of the intrigues of that little Italian court in 1830. In Christian Jacques' screen version it is, of course, the romantic adventure story which counts, and the adventures happen to Fabrice del Dongo (Gérard Philipe), the Napoleonic marquis who became a priest after taking part in a conspiracy. The film does justice to Stendhal — giving prominence to prisons, rope-ladders and murderous designs. The Italian panorama is excellently photographed. Renée Faure's Duchess of Sanseverina and Maria Cesares' Clelia, are authentic. Lucien Coedel, Louis Salou and Tullio Carminati again provide original characterstudies. Strangely enough, the final tragedy is omitted, at least during the Jerusalem premiere. We learned that running time would be 150 minutes (19-reels), but the film lasted for only 130 minutes, ending abruptly but happily after the 13th reel.

FRANGO

Israel Premiere

THE latest Hitchcock thriller, "I Confess" (Orah, Haifa), takes place in Quebec. The theme is the seal of silence imposed on a priest in regard to all that he hears in the confessional. On this occasion, obedience to his vows brings the priest almost to the gallows. The audience knows the actual murderer from the start but, though the details of why the priest is suspect are strained, working out the plot is entrancing.

This is typical Hitchcock — the juxtaposition of monumental architecture and human beings, the long vistas, the use of sudden noises to create distraction. Anne Baxter is the heroine, the lady who loved the priest in his secular days and, although now married, does so still. Brian Aherne creates a pleasant *bon vivant* of a Crown Prosecutor and the actor who plays the detective gives a most convincing performance. Honours, however, go to Montgomery Clift's interpretation of the priest. He says little, but this is amply compensated by the open character of his face, its saintliness and sensitivity to any situation that arises.

H.

Basis for Balanced Budget

By a Special Correspondent

There is much speculation about the shape of the coming budget, but attention also should be paid to the trends of actual revenue and expenditure as revealed by the recently published summaries for the first eight months of the current fiscal year, up to November 30.

During this period, ordinary receipts totalled IL.140.2m. as against IL.135.8m. for ordinary expenditure, leaving a balance of IL.4.4m. This, however, does not include IL.5.1m. for delayed salaries which were paid in December, and loans of IL.800,000 are included in the revenue figures. The actual figures thus were balanced with a small deficit.

The still unspent portion of the budgetary allocation is somewhat less than IL.80m., while the revenue estimates amount to IL.77m., a figure which might easily be exceeded. The prospects are therefore, favourable.

The reform of the Income Tax Department seems at last to be bearing fruit. The average monthly revenue increased from IL.4.8m. during the first four months of the fiscal year to IL.6.1m. during the second four months, and is said to have reached IL.8.5m. in December. There remains only the sum of IL.18m. to be collected during the first three months of 1954, in order to reach the estimated goal of IL.70m.

IL.75m. in Taxes

The Tax Department does not seem overly optimistic in feeling that IL.75m. may be collected, as against IL.56.4m. in the last financial year. To be sure, a considerable part of the increased collection represents arrears from preceding years, but once these arrears have been cleared, the Tax Department will be free to proceed with its plan for finally putting the tax on a pay-as-you-earn basis for all taxpayers.

There has also been a marked improvement in the collection of the advance income tax, included in the Development Budget, and it is not unreasonable to expect that a sum of IL.4m. to IL.5m. may be collected up to the end of March, although this will be only a third of the original estimate. It seems from the preceding that an estimated income tax revenue of IL.10m.—IL.100m. is not unrealistic.

The opposite trend is discernible in other direct taxations, all of which have failed to reach the estimates. Moreover, recent collections have been on the decrease. A monthly average of IL.4m. was collected during the first eight months of the fiscal year, and it is unlikely that an average of IL.1.85 will be reached in the remaining four months, a figure necessary to attain the IL.19.8m. goal. In addition, the foreign travel tax, which in the first eight months totalled IL.1m., has been virtually discontinued.

This instance may serve as an example of the distortion of the financial situation brought about by the existence of the secret Exchange Equalisation Account. The bulk of the tax has been replaced by the increased rate of exchange for travellers going abroad. To this extent, therefore, the same sums are collected from the public but they no longer appear in the ordinary revenue figures. It is good news that the new budget is to be framed in a more realistic manner.

Figures of revenue from indirect taxes are even more promising than those of income tax. Customs, now collected on an ad valorem basis, yielded IL.17.4m. during the first eight months of the fiscal year. They are expected to yield considerably more in the last third, during which imports usually reach their highest level.

The increase in imports should be more pronounced this year because of the delayed shipments of German Reparations goods and the commodities financed by the U.S. Grant-in-Aid. There have also been considerable tariff increases. The year's total may therefore reach IL.28m. to IL.30m., as compared with an estimated IL.23m.

Excise on fuel has been collected on an average monthly rate of IL.1.9m. Should the same rate persist for the last third, the total would amount to IL.23m., IL.3m. above the estimate. Excise receipts from tobacco, wines, liquors and other items seem to be tapering, but they are still considerably higher than before the tariff increase of last summer.

Receipts from luxury and selective sales taxes are more or less stationary. The Treasury has received IL.24.3m. from this source in eight months, and the estimate of IL.34.6m. may well be topped by about IL. 2 m. Transport revenue is also higher than originally anticipated, and may yield IL.1m. to IL.2m. above estimates.

8% Profit

Altogether, ordinary revenue in the current fiscal year may exceed estimates by as much as IL.17m., or eight per cent. Such a margin should be sufficient for balancing the budget comfortably, even in the event of an untoward increase in ordinary expenditure.

It must be borne in mind, however, that from this month, the exchange rate of IL.1.80—$1 applies also to Government imports, and it is not yet known to what extent this adjustment will increase the expenditure totals, nor to what account this increase will be charged.

The blurring of accounts is most obvious in the Development Budget summaries. In the November statement, it is revealed that the premium for foreign exchange sold to the Treasury by the Jewish Agency (that is, the difference between the rate of 720 pruta per dollar and the new rate of IL.1.3 per dollar, which has been in force for the income of the National Funds since April 1953) is borne, not by the Exchange Equalisation Account, as generally supposed, but charged directly to the Development Budget.

It is this premium which is mainly responsible for the comparatively large amounts expended for agricultural settlements. On the other hand, Development loans have been granted for the sake of paying the Exchange Equalization Account the new premium of 800 pruta per dollar (which, to the end of November, amounted to IL.5.2m.).

Thus, it is obvious that the Development Budget has been used to strengthen the secret Account, out of which covert subsidies could be paid for non-development purposes, that is for current consumption and administration.

We do not know to what extent these manipulations have been going on, but it is of significance that, in the coming budget, which is to put an end to these secret practices, IL. 70m. is said to be allocated for subsidies out of Development Budget sources.

Development Lag

According to present accounting methods, the Development Budget deficit at the end of November was IL.5.6m., to which "authorization letters" must be added to the tune of IL.14.5m., part of it in dollars. As compared with the September figures, the deficit declined by about IL.5m.

The rate of expenditure dropped somewhat in October, but jumped in November, and if the "authorization letters" are included, no lag is noticeable as against sums allocated. The biggest items, agriculture and housing, are ahead of schedule.

On the revenue side, sales of Government property (estimated to bring in IL.10m.) were a complete failure, and the advanced income tax will yield IL.10m. less than anticipated. Income from other items will be approximately the amount anticipated, but there is an understandable lag in the counterfund of the Grant-in-Aid, and the Reparations counter-fund still remains at an unreasonably low level (IL.16m. by the end of November).

While this situation may be due partly to credit facilities extended to importers, there must be some other reason, which should be made public. Should no major changes occur in these items, the revenue totals may prove to be lagging behind the estimates by as much as IL.40m., resulting in an increased deficit or a severe curtailment of expenditure.

Press Review :

Optimism Over Unified Cabinet

Welcoming the formation of a new government after much delay, "Ha'aretz" (Independent) says that Mr. Sharett is the most fitting candidate for Prime Minister. The fact that Mr. Sharett has been preoccupied with foreign affairs necessarily made it impossible for him always to take part in discussions on important domestic topics; the paper believes that it was perhaps for this reason that he did not get the full support of his own party during the recent negotiations.

"Haboker" (General Zionist) hopes that collaboration between the coalition partners will be extended to all fields. The stumbling blocks which, according to the Press, hindered the conclusion of an agreement at an earlier date were not the real reasons, which were doubts as to the spirit of cooperation (or its absence) and the paper hopes that a change will now take place in that direction.

"Hamodia" (Agudat Yisrael) criticizes Hapoel Hamizrahi for having joined the coalition though the issue of pork has not been decided in a clear and unequivocal manner. This issue (i.e. pig-farming) "is as important for us," says the paper, as the "labour flag problem for the General Zionists..."

Veto Welcomed

Several papers dealt with the recent development in the Security Council. Both "Kol Ha'am" (Communist) and "Al Hamishmar" (Mapam) gladly welcome the Soviet veto but for very opposite reasons. "Kol Ha'am" believes that the continuation of work on the Jordan River project is dependent on agreement by the Syrians, while "Al Hamishmar" voices the opinion that Mr. Vyshinsky's intervention now gives Israel a free hand to restart the work at once. "The Soviet Union has never demanded that work be discontinued nor did she say that Syria had the right of a veto in the case under discussion." "Kol Ha'am," on the other hand, gives Mr. Vyshinsky's speech exactly the opposite interpretation and says that "he declared that both Israel and Syria have sovereign rights over the use of the water."

"Hador" (Mapai) declares that Israel must continue the struggle for the Jordan project which is vital to the country. The paper maintains that Mapam's interpretation that Mr. Vyshinsky wanted to give Israel a free hand is too foolish to be dealt with seriously.

"Herut" takes it for granted that the Soviet veto was an obvious pro-Arab manoeuvre; though nobody intended it so, this anti-Israel proposal has created a situation extremely favourable to us, inasmuch as the Government is now no longer bound to stop the work. If our hands are free, continues the paper, the mentality of the Israel Foreign Ministry unfortunately is not. Instead of restarting work at once, it was officially and lamely stated that the rains prevented the continuation of the work at the present moment anyway.

Sport Round The World

A Japanese shipyard worker last week broke the world record for the 10-mile road race held by Czechoslovakia's Emil Zatopek by three seconds.

Yonosuke Iyashida, university graduate and now employed by the Harima shipyards, ran the distance in 48 minutes, nine seconds.

• • •

Slight Jossy Barthel of Luxembourg made his American debut last week by winning the Knights of Columbus one-mile run at Boston Garden.

Barthel, the Olympic 1500-metre champion, passed last year's K. of C. mile victor, Fred Wilt of the New York A.C., with 10 yards remaining, and won in 4:10.2.

• • •

Robert Cohen, French bantamweight boxing champion, will be unable to meet the holder John Kelly, of Belfast, in their European title bout at Belfast, Cohen injured himself while sparring with the young British southpaw Percy Lewis.

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

JAN. 26.		Rise or Fall
Govt. Loans		
5% 1955 (reg.)	100½	—
5% 1956 (reg.)	101	—
Pre-State Loans		
1949/50 (IL.10)	100	+½
1950/75 (IL.10)	96½	—
3½% Tavel Dollar	1372x	+3c)
3½% Tavel Dollar	1256x	+2
3½% War Loan 54/69	83½	+½
3½% Govt. Bonds large	91½	—
Pal. Bonser Bd.		
Ser. 1	72½	+½
Ser. 2	72½	—
Ser. 3	72½	+½
R. Lamm Ord. sh.	336	—
L.P.B. Invest.		
4% Debs. 50/70	99	—
4½% Pref. sh.	106	—
Ord. sh. "B"	133	—
Gen. Mortg. Bk.		
4% Debs. 48/63	77½	—
6% Pref. sh.	79½	+½
Bisur		
4% Debs. 46/58	98½	—
4½% Debs. 53/65 reg.	76½	
Nils Ltd.		
4% Debs. 39/59	88	—
5% Pref. sh.	71½	—a)
Pass Debs. 4% 42/62	78½	—
P.L.D.C. Ord. sh.	182½	—1½
5% Debs.	94½	—1c)
Afr. Pal. Inv. Ord. sh	129	—4
Rassco		
4% Debs 55/68	70½	—
6% Pref. Ord. sh.	96½	—½
Pal. Potash 6% Pref. sh	406	—
"A" ord. sh.	230	+8
Pal. Elec. Ord. sh. (Isr.)	456	—
Meheroth Pref. sh.	81½	—
Ata 6% "C" Pref. sh	110	—a)
Ord. "B" sh.	158½	—
6-9% Con. Debs.	104	—a)
"Kardaneh" Ord "B" sh	169½	+½
Assis-Rej. "B" sh	172½	+½
"Tovu" Ord. sh.	102½	
Nesher 6% Debs. Ser. A	119½	+1½c)
6% Debs. Ser. B	150	+7c)
Pal. Cold Sts. 7% Debs.	137½	—1
Ledzin 4½% Pref. sh.	75	—
S.A. Binyan Ord. sh	83	—b)
Pal. Contr. Tr. pref. sh	94	—

Notes: a) purchasing price; b) selling price; c) ex-coupons; d) ex right; x) prutot per one Dollar

Notice to the Public

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
COMPULSORY LOAN

I hereby draw the attention of persons owing on the Compulsory Loan ("Kofer Milve") that according to Art. 37 (A) (3) of the Compulsory Loan Regulations — 1953, they are to pay the next instalment to the equivalent of 12% of the total amount they owe, during the month of February.

Property owners who did not receive any notice to effect the said payment, must nevertheless do so according to the previous instructions they received (for August, 1953).

Dr. M. LANDAU,
Director of Compulsory Loan

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

JERUSALEM: Mayer, near Egged, 4192. Bet Israel, Bet Israel Qr., 2251.
TEL AVIV: Merafa, 77 Allenby, 3487. Mescovici, 25 King George, 62650. Amami, 94 Ben Yehuda, 22823. Kitajewicz, 22, Bayarbon, 3586. Hatikva, Hatikva Qr., 67484.
JAFFA: Alfandri, 53 Rehov 1, 80607. RAMAT GAN: Aliya, 2 Yahalom. GIVAT RAMBAM: Rambam.
HAIFA: Habriut, 55 Herzl, 4082. New British, 47 Jaffa, 4735. KIRYAT MOTZKIN: Pentagon.

EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

JERUSALEM: Dr. M. Schumert, 19 Ben Yehuda, 61474. Dr. H. Hirsch, Romema, 4516.
TEL AVIV: Dr. M. Shaham, 1 Syrkin, 25842. Dr. N.L. Sacher, 165 Dizengoff, 26988. Dr. Levithal, 3 Rehov Mapu, 24562. Dr. E. Levitan, 11 Bayarden, 66507. JAFFA: Dr. Weinberg, 4 Rehov 66.
HAIFA: Dr. S. Shilmover, 18 Nordau, 6374. Dr. A. Rosenbaum, 31 Moria, 3516. Dr. L. Sallasi, 105 Jaffa, 6444. Dr. N. Landau, 4 Mahan yim, 6832.

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TUES., Jan. 26, at 4 & 9 p.m.
Tickets: Cahana, Jerusalem.

DIE BRÜCKE — הגשר
DRAMA READING OF
"Sensations Prozess"
(No. 18)
3 parts by Edward Wooll
Sat., Jan. 30, 8.30 p.m.
Beit Hahalutzot,
97A King George St.,
Tel Aviv.
Tickets: Schlesinger & Springer 2 Rehov Nahlat Benyamin; Mumenhaezen, "Febeccentist, 46 Reh. Ben Yehuda; Radio Valea, 116 Rehov Dizengoff; and at the Box Office.

THE HEBREW NATIONAL
OPERA
TEL AVIV: HABIMAH
TONIGHT, Jan. 26 at 8.15
Fledermaus
(The Bat)
Operetta in 3 Acts by J. Strauss
TEL AVIV: HABIMAH
Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 8.15 p.m.
Rigoletto
Opera in 3 acts (4 scenes) by G. VERDI
Tickets: Ballin 67 Allenby Rd. Tel Aviv, Tel. 4818 and at the Habimah Box office.

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(SPERRMARK)
resulting from Compensation Claims will now be granted only in special cases. In general, payment of these claims will be effected at the official German rate.
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ON THE AIR

JERUSALEM: 607 M.; HAIFA: 260 M.; TEL AVIV: 202, 463 & 522 M.

FIRST PROGRAMME

News: Hebrew: 7 a.m., 1.30, 6.15, 8.30 & 11.00 p.m. Arabic Programme (including News): 8 a.m. 2.15 & 6.15 p.m.
8.30 a.m. Service. 8.35 Exercise. 9.45 Musical Clock (R). 7.15 Melodies (R). 8.30 Close Down.
12.00 N. "Music at Noon" (R). 12.30 Housewives' Corner. 13.00 Programme for Hospitals. 1.45 Break for Music (R). 3.00 Close Down.
4.00 p.m. Siesta (R). 4.45 Music (R). 5.30 Agricultural Programme. 5.50 Language Corner. 5.45 Children's Hour. 7.00 "Great Pianists." 7.30 Sports. 7.45 Noah's Ark. 8.45 Newsreel. 9.00 Kol Yisrael Orchestra. Conductor: George Singer: Overture "Leonore" No. 3 (Beethoven); Concert for Four Violins & Orchestra (Vivaldi); "Dalish" (Salomon); "Hercia Song" (Dvorak). 10.30 Request Programme. 11.00 Close Down.

SECOND PROGRAMME

468, 219, 214, 49.3 M.
English News: 1.45 p.m. 10.15 p.m. 4.30 p.m. Music (R). 5.00 Programme for Youngsters. 5.30 Literature Corner. 6.00 Programme for Newcomers. 6.15 Close Down.
IMMIGRANTS' HOUR (25.5, 34.9 & 449 M.): French: 6.30 p.m. Ladino: 7.00 p.m. Yiddish: 7.30 p.m.
KOL ZION L'GOLA (25.5 M.): 11.15 News. 11.25 Names in the News. 11.30 "On Behalf of Israel" by A. Davis. 1.45 Music in Our Land.
ARMY PROGRAMME (444.6, 212, 253 & 322 M.): 4.00 Opening. 4.15 "Now and After." 7.00 Bamah Diary. 7.20 Today's Events. 7.35 Light Music (R). 7.45 Noah's Ark. 8.00 News. 8.45 Sketch. 9.15 Dance Music. 10.00 Close Down.
B.B.C. HEBREW BROADCASTS (31.32; 24.92; 30.15; 25.00 M.): 4.00-7.00 p.m. News, "Bible Readings," Arts Chronicle.

STARTING TODAY, JANUARY 26, AT THE ATZMON CINEMA, HAIFA
ISRAEL PREMIERE!
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CLASH BY NIGHT
A SUSPENSEFUL DRAMA STARRING:
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MARILYN MONROE ★ ROBERT RYAN
An R.K.O. RADIO PICTURE production

Today's Post Bag

THE WEATHER

	A	B	C	D
Mt. Canaan	39	5	9	10
Tiberias	36	5	14	15
Haifa Port	51	9	17	13
Natanya	48	9	17	13
Tel Aviv North	50	7	17	15
Tel Aviv Port	50	9	16	15
Lydda Airport	46	4	17	13
Jerusalem	43	4	13	13
Beersheba	42	4	16	13
Eilat	59	—	21	20

FORECAST: Generally partly cloudy with clouds increasing in the afternoon mainly in the North.

*A) Humidity at 8 p.m. B) Minimum temp. C) Maxim. yesterday. D) Maximum temp. expected today.

* * *

THE SECOND CONSIGNMENT of 100 radio sets made by the Cliron company were flown to Turkey by El Al yesterday. The total order is for 800 sets valued at $40,000. The company is now negotiating with firms in Persia and South Africa regarding exports to those countries.

* * *

THE 900 VOTERS of Kefr Yassif, on the Acre-Safed road, go to the polls today to elect a nine-member Local Council. These are the first elections to take place in an Arab village under Military Government.

* * *

AN 18-YEAR-OLD MOTOR-CYCLIST, Yosef Gafni, of the Borochov quarter, Tel Aviv, was seriously injured when he was knocked down by a bus in Rehov Hahayal, Ramat Gan, yesterday. The driver, Arie Gidansky, of Ramat Gan, was detained and released in bond.

* * *

YEHIYE SHARIV, 78, told Jerusalem police yesterday that his grandson, Elishuv, 25, had threatened to kill him unless he received IL.3,000 for a trip to the U.S.

* * *

A GOLD WATCH stolen in the Talpiot robbery on Sunday was returned by the police within 24 hours. The watch had been sold in Mahane Yehuda market for IL.16, and a young man has been held for stealing and selling it.

* * *

AN ELECTRIC CALCULATING machine, valued at IL.800, was stolen from the accounts department of Mekorot, in Rehov Aliya, Tel Aviv, yesterday, when its operator left the room for a few minutes.

* * *

A DANCE RHAPSODY, "Dalia," by Karel Salomon, will have its first performance at a special concert in aid of the Association of Disabled Ex-Servicemen of World War II to be broadcast by Kol Yisrael from the Y.M.C.A. Hall in Jerusalem at 9 p.m. this evening.

PEC President Arrives

LYDDA AIRPORT, Monday (ITIM).—The President of the Palestine Economic Corporation in America, Mr. Robert Szold, who arrived by T.W.A. on a six-week visit today, said that it is the aim of his company "to get Israel on her feet from the economic point of view."

Mr. Szold, who was accompanied by his wife, said that he would discuss with Finance Minister Levi Eshkol and other Government officials and businessmen how to achieve results in the investment field.

The P.E.C. is now planning to begin oil prospecting operations through the Nadel-Gassman Company.

(Visitors' Gallery, — Page 9)

Divorcee Seeks to Stop Ex-Husband's Marriage

TEL AVIV, Monday. — An application by a divorced woman for an order restraining her former husband from marrying another woman as, since the divorce, they had had relations together and she suspected that she was now pregnant, was rejected by District Court Judge Y. Lamm here today.

The Judge said that the Marriage and Divorce Law had taken from him any right to hear the case. An application for IL.60 a month alimony will be heard next week.

The woman told the Court that she and her former husband had a nine-year-old son and were divorced three years ago. "Since then, the father used to come and visit the boy and we occasionally acted as man and wife," she added.

Judge Lamm said that he regarded the matter as urgent, as, according to the applicant's statement, the former husband was due to marry another woman this week. He recommended that the case be referred immediately to the Rabbinical Court and trusted that that Court would act with speed. *(Itim.)*

RATION NEWS

JERUSALEM: Frozen Meat: For Invalids: 500 gr., Medical Association cards dated January 24, cards for 700 gr. of chicken dated January 8, 10, 17 and 24; For Expectant Mothers: 500 gr., 1, 2, Chocolate: 1 bar, Aleph, Bet and Gimel cards, no coupon; Temp. 12. Laundry Soap: 1, Heh 22, 3 for Aleph cards, Temp. 13. Sweetened Cocoa: 150 gr., for Aleph, Bet, Gimel cards, no coupon, Temp. 14. SOUTHERN DISTRICT; Fillet: 150 gr., Heh 15; Temp. 22.

HAIFA and SHOMRON: Rice: 250 gr., Aleph and Bet cards, Heh 3; Temp. 21. White Flour: 750 gr., Heh 6; Temp. 14. Laundry Soap: 1, For Aleph cards, 2, Heh 23; Temp. 15. Fillet Chocolate: 1 bar, no coupon; Temp. 15. Imperial Cheese: 125 gr., no coupon, Temp. 15. Eggs: 6, Heh 16, Temp. 6; For Invalids: 4, Met Aleph 3, 4, Met Bet 4, 5, Met Gimel 4. For Expectant Mothers: 3, 19 and 20 on new cards, 13, 14 on old cards. Chicken for Invalids: 800 gr., Met Bet 2, Fillet: 150 gr., Heh 19; Temp. 22.

Personal Notice

Theodor Aptaker — Tel Aviv
Lily Joanne Whitt — General

MARRIED

Tel Aviv, January 25, 1954.

Haifa Dockers Set New Record

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA, Monday. — The port achieved a new turnover record yesterday when workers handled over 9,000 tons of cargo. The men discharged 5,500 tons of imports of all kinds, including German Reparations goods, from 12 ships, and loaded 250 tons of various exports, mainly cement, as well as almost 70,000 cases of citrus totalling 2,800 tons. The previous record was 8,200 tons.

The citrus loading total was also a record for this season, but it is expected that it will reach the same high rate in the future. The quicker handling was achieved by better work and improved packing on loading platforms.

Workers also unloaded 60,000 cases of citrus which arrived from the groves yesterday in lorries and railway wagons. By this evening, over 1,750,000 cases had been loaded for export, over 100,000 more than at the same time last year.

Tomorrow, the second temporary automatic grain discharge equipment is to be put into operation by the Dagon Company, to unload the s.s. Peloponesa, which brought 10,000 tons of wheat in bulk. Together, the two installations are expected to discharge grain at the rate of 70 tons per hour.

Ramat Gan Firm On Doctors' Strike

RAMAT GAN, Monday. — The Municipality here today sent an ultimatum to their 11 doctor employees now on strike stating that if they do not return to their jobs by February 1 they may regard themselves as dismissed as from that date.

As a result of this move there is danger that this town will remain without municipal medical services indefinitely, since it is understood that the Medical Association will not allow other physicians to take employment with the Municipality at worse conditions than those generally prevailing.

The local physicians started their strike last Friday as their demands for a salary increase to bring them level with the salaries paid by other Municipalities were rejected.

GAZA MARAUDERS STEAL PIPES

BEERSHEBA, Monday. — Irrigation pipes were the main objective of marauders in the South last night.

Some IL.800 worth were stolen from Kibbutz Urim from where the tracks of 13 persons led towards Deir el Bala, in the Gaza strip, and another IL.300 worth were removed from Moshav Patish, with tracks again leading to the same border. Forty metres of piping were stolen from Moshav Shuva, near the Gaza strip.

Locusts Over Lahav

BEERSHEBA, Monday. — Swarms of red locusts were seen flying in the vicinity of Lahav, in the Eastern Negev, and some eight kilometres south of here this afternoon.

"A-Dfiya" reported today that swarms of locusts have appeared in the Bethlehem area.

Gazoz Makers Unite To Meet Depression

By a Special Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Monday. — Competition forced four soft drink manufacturers to merge recently and additional mergers are expected soon to reduce costs and stabilise prices and profits, a spokesman of the Association of Soft Drink Producers told a Press conference today.

At present, there are 35 firms producing gazoz, mineral waters and other soft drinks. They have an annual turnover of IL.8m.

However, consumption recently dropped by 30% since the public has been offered an increasing choice of other refreshments of better quality. In 1952, about 36 million bottles of gazoz and ten million bottles of mineral water were sold in addition to drinks sold over the counter in kiosks.

To meet stiffer competition, gazoz produced of natural fruit extracts and eight per cent pure sugar is shortly to be put on the market again at 200 prutas a bottle (75 pruta wholesale); only 2.5% of sugar of an inferior quality, and artificial fruit syrup are contained in the standard gazoz now produced at a wholesale price of 80 pruta.

Sanitary conditions in many factories are far from satisfactory and the drinks produced have often not been up to standard, the Association spokesman conceded. Stringent regulations are, however, to be introduced shortly by the Ministry of Health, and the re-use of old corks and of misleading labels is to be prohibited.

Electric Workers Staging Walk-out

TEL AVIV, Monday. — More than 4,000 employees of the Palestine Electric Corporation will start a 24-hour strike at 7.30 tomorrow morning.

Between 300 and 400 shift workers engaged in power houses and on line maintenance will remain at work in order to maintain the electricity supply throughout the country.

The work stoppage has not been authorised by the Histadrut's Trades Union Department.

Spokesmen for P.E.C. workers would not reveal today the reasons for the strike, which they said would be explained in full to the workers at protest meetings held at 4.30 tomorrow morning at Beit Ha'am Hall in Tel Aviv and at the Ora Cinema in Haifa.

It is understood, however, that the strike concerns the question of pensions due to the workers in the light of impending changes in the company's ownership.

DIAMOND WORKERS STRIKE

TEL AVIV, Monday. — The diamond cutting industry came to a standstill today when 2,500 workers throughout the country went on strike in protest to non-payment of the last two C.o.L. allowance increases.

The Diamond Works Association met this morning in an effort to find ways of postponing the stoppage, but were still debating when the 10 o'clock deadline came and the workers trooped out of the factories.

12 Years for Segal

Baruch Segal, 21, was sentenced yesterday by the Jerusalem District Court to 12 years in prison for the manslaughter of his fiancee, Mazal Levy, 18, in February, 1953.

In their judgments, Judges A. Witkon and M. Goian agreed that Segal should have been charged with manslaughter and not premeditated murder. They said that Segal had been flung into a rage not by Mazal's announcement that she was leaving him for another man, but by the cynical, scornful and provocative manner in which this announcement had been made.

A contrary view was taken by Judge H. E. Baker, who stated that it was possible that Segal had even thought of killing Levy the night before the tragedy. He said that medical evidence had shown that she had not died as a result of being strangled by Segal, but from being stabbed later when she moaned while unconscious.

Judge Baker held that, while unconscious, the girl could not have acted in a provocative manner, and that Segal had had sufficient time between the two acts to recover his self-control.

District Attorney Ezra Hedaya appeared for the State, and Mr. K. Weyl for the defence. *(Itim.)*

Three Arrested for Plot Against German Doctor

TEL AVIV, Monday. — In a surprise move today, police have detained and later released in bond three men whom "on the strength of information received" they believed to have been involved in an attempt to harm Dr. Laura Schaeder. Dr. Schaeder arrived from Germany on January 7 to examine victims of Nazi medical experiments to ascertain the amount of compensation they are to receive.

The three men, Haim Glaser, Naftali Dresner and Moshe Dolgin, all of Tel Aviv, are former P.E.C. members. They were picked up by the police at their homes early this morning and were released during the day after investigation.

Government

(Continued from Page 1)

had been agreed upon a year ago. Development should be slowed down to meet available resources; taxes trimmed in line with the ability of the people to pay; manufacturers and workers alike must increase their productivity.

Mr. Govrin, who took the floor after him, said that taxes could not be lowered since we had to achieve the economic independence everyone is urging upon the Government.

Mr. I. Raphael (Hapoel Hamizrahi) said that the fact that his party is in the Cabinet is sufficient guarantee for the defence of religion in the country. Rabbi M. Nurock (Mizrahi) introduced a warning: If pig-raising is not done away with in three months, his party might have to "reconsider its stand."

There was no end to the invective, even slander, in the utterances of Dr. Y. Boder (Herut) and of Mr. S. Mikunis (Communist) against Mr. Sharett. Dr. Boder's was a masterpiece of literary satire: he acted classing all the way from Homer and Cicero, and ended with a quotation from Shakespeare. The "weak Hamlet," he said, should give way to "the strong Fortinbras." Mr. Mikunis was outrightly slanderous and stimulated much disgusted heckling. Mr. Argov noticed that Mr. Mikunis praised Leninism, but no longer mentioned Stalinism. Dr. M. Bnah (Left Socialist), in Mr. Mikunis's vein, criticised Mr. Sharett, among other things, for not starting diplomatic relations outright with Communist China.

Rabbi I.M. Levin (Agudat Yisrael) blamed the religious parties which had entered the coalition for not putting their case more strongly; to judge from Hapoel Hamizrahi partiepiate in the Government, the Orthodox had a chance to increase their demands and include the abolition of National Service for women. Mr. Faris Hamdan (Arab Agricultural and Development) said that the Israel Arabs had great confidence in Mr. Sharett and looked forward to treatment which would be better than the strong hand they had felt in the past year.

BANK ROBBERY

TEL AVIV, Monday (ITIM).—The sum of IL.40,000 disappeared recently from the Haifa branch of Barclays Bank, it was learned from police headquarters here today.

According to the police, the bank's Deputy Manager reported today that a clerk had gone on leave a few days ago and it is believed that he took the money with him.

The Pact is Signed

Signing the Coalition agreement in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem yesterday. Left to right: Mr. M. Sharett, M. Y. Kanu, (the Prime Minister's Secretary), Mr. P. Bernstein, and Mr. S. Saphir. (Photo Schlesinger)

Sharett Statement to Knesset

The following is the full text of the statement made by Mr. Moshe Sharett to the Knesset yesterday afternoon in presenting his new Cabinet for approval.

I am privileged to be able to announce to the Knesset that, by virtue of the task entrusted to me by the President, it has been given to me, with the assistance of friends, to form a new Government, whose composition I shall now lay before the House and for whom I shall seek its vote of confidence.

The need for the formation of a new Government arose from the resignation of the former Cabinet, which, in its turn, was the result of the personal resignation of the Prime Minister.

For the first time a Government is being formed in the State of Israel which is not headed by David Ben Gurion and does not include him among its members. The masses of Israel's citizens learned with deep sorrow and grave anxiety of the withdrawal from his position of supreme responsibility of the first Prime Minister of Israel — the man who, for the last two decades, presided over our national struggle in this country as a leader firm in determination, great in faith and blessed in vision; who in a decisive historic hour set the goal of statehood as an immediate objective for the Yishuv and the Zionist Movement, and recoiled before no risk in achieving it; who led our armed forces in the War of Liberation as an intrepid commander; who, as an inspired statesman, directed the affairs of our State in the initial years of its existence — a period of daring growth and of painful efforts at consolidation; and who, as an imaginative and farsighted architect, built and organised the bulwark of the nation's security — the Defence Army of Israel.

National Admiration

Such a man's powerful inner compulsion must be respected. The entire nation has admired the moral strength revealed by its leader in relinquishing, even if only, as we all hope, for a short period, the reins of power in order to recover and keep young his identification with the people in simple citizenship and pioneering service.

The political and moral values passed on by David Ben Gurion to his colleagues and to the State as a whole, and the moulds which he forged for the people's state life, are a precious heritage which every Government in Israel will be called upon to preserve and cherish.

The Government now presented to the Knesset does not propose to engender a new programme of action. It regards itself as in direct continuance of the former administration, and it firmly adheres to the fundamental line of policy put before the Knesset by the former Prime Minister on December 22, 1953 and approved by the House on the following day.

A number of items in that programme have already been implemented and others are in the process of realisation. The new Government is determined during its term of office, and until the next General Election, to persevere in the progressive application of those principles whilst, at the same time, giving every attention to matters of special urgency as they arise.

The Government which I have the honour to present to the House is supported by four out of the five groups which constituted the former Coalition: The Israel Workers' Party (Mapai), General Zionists, Hapoel Hamizrahi, and Hamizrahi. These four parties have again agreed to assume joint responsibility for the governance of the State and to shoulder together the burdens of its development. Their covenant of mutual trust and common effort rests on the firm support of a substantial majority in the Knesset.

Progressives Awaited

I have to note with regret that the Progressive Party has not so far seen its way to enter the reconstructed Coalition. All groups participating in the new Government are still looking forward to the decision of the Progressive Party to return to the fold of responsibility.

On behalf of all my colleagues I express special regret at the absence from our circle of our comrade Pinhas Rosen, the distinguished Minister of Justice. We have learned to admire his personal qualities, to value the principles of policy which he has upheld, and to appreciate his contribution to the discussions and the collective wisdom of the Cabinet. We all hope that he will join us soon and return to his post. The Portfolio of Justice, for the time being unallocated, remains temporarily in the custody of the Prime Minister.

An attempt has been made to enlarge the partnership of government beyond the scope of the former Coalition. The Israel Workers' Party has conducted lengthy negotiations with the United Workers' Party (Mapam) aiming at the inclusion of the latter in the Coalition. To the disappointment of many, Mapam declined the offer to share responsibility for the conduct of the State and the solution of its pressing problems.

A fairly long interval has elapsed between the resignation of the former Cabinet and the presentation of the new Government to the Knesset. The reasons for this are widely known.

Necessity arose to settle a number of points at issue between the partners in the Coalition. The prolonged negotiations extended over a wide and varied field of problems of administrations and economic policy, of education and religion. I am happy to be able to report that all these issues have been finally resolved in an agreement to which all the constituent units of the new coalition are parties, and the Government now stands ready to assume the burden of responsibility, its inner cohesion reestablished and reinforced.

Unity Vital

The unity of all constructive and responsible forces within the nation, which are ready to join hands in the service of the State and in execution of the historic tasks of the present generation, is an inescapable necessity during the present phase in Israel's affairs, marked as they are by pains of growth, by the difficult processes of construction and the trials of economic consolidation and the unceasing struggles of political defence.

The Government does not propose to rest content with the support only of those standing solidly behind it. It appeals to the groups outside the Coalition and seeks their help in the execution of the tasks undertaken by it for the common good and in safeguarding the State's future.

The Government calls upon all citizens without distinction of community or class to rally to its support, to strengthen internal unity and discipline and to carry out faithfully their duties towards the State. The Government for its part will strive to secure an equitable distribution of the burdens of citizenship. The assistance of all is required to enable the Government effectively to pursue the day-to-day efforts in relieving unemployment, satisfying the needs of the masses of citizens, stabilising the country's economy, extending agricultural settlement, developing industry, exploiting natural resources, gradually liquidating the austerity, providing facilities for permanent homes, increasing immigration, safeguarding Israel's independence and security and repelling any attack against its vital rights and interests.

Greetings to Diaspora

The Government extends a hand of brotherhood to the Jewish people in all countries of its dispersion, primarily to the Zionist Movement, and to all organisations and institutions assisting Israel in its development and the ingathering within its bounds of returning exiles.

It addresses warm greetings to all Jews anxious for the welfare of Israel and eager to see it rise in prosperity, honour and creative achievement. It calls out to those parts of the Jewish people which are today condemned to mute isolation, to maintain their devotion to Zion. It seeks an increased measure of assistance from those able to help in rendering impregnable the edifice of national strength which is being erected in Israel.

The Government will dedicate itself to hard work. It will strive untiringly to advance Israel materially, as well as spiritually, to enhance its international position, to enable it to fulfil its historic mission in Jewish history and to make of it an agent of peace and progress in the Middle East and the world beyond.

I ask the Knesset to accord the confidence to this Government.

Gov't Asked to Pay Rates in Capital

Jerusalem Post Reporter

"Operation rate-collecting" proceeds apace in the Capital, with extra collectors on the beat and more clerks to cope with tardy householders paying their dues.

Mr. Y. Schreibaum, newly appointed Rates Commissioner, hopes that the Government offices and national institutions in Jerusalem will be persuaded to pay their share of municipal income. Negotiations to this end are nearing a decision, which rests finally with the Minister of Interior.

The Custodian of Abandoned Property, one of the biggest landlords in Jerusalem, contributes nothing the City Treasury. Abandoned property in Musrara and southern Jerusalem suffers from very inadequate sanitation as neither the Custodian nor the Municipality will spend money on drainage for these slum districts.

Over 80 shopkeepers were fined from IL.1-5 for infringing regulations on business hours.

COUNCILLOR QUITS

RAMAT GAN, Monday. — Mr. A. Katz, a Herut Municipal Councillor, today tendered his resignation to Mayor I. Krinitzi. He asked to be relieved of his duties beginning February 1 "for private reasons."

It is understood that Mr. Katz's resignation may be connected with his disappointment over what he believes is the mishandling of housing projects for veteran residents on whose behalf he was active.

Slight Rise In Tourist Traffic

Tourist traffic to Israel last year was but slightly heavier than during 1952. Last year 38,000 tourists visited Israel, according to figures released by Mr. Amos Irron, Tourist Centre Director, in Jerusalem yesterday. This represents a rise of 8% over 1953. Over half the visitors came by air (53%), the remainder by sea and overland.

The trade grossed some $8m. about half in bank exchanges of currency ($3.8m.), $1.8m. in gifts purchased in Israel, and $2m. on air and sea transport.

The tourist income rose $1.8m. over the previous year — $1m. in bank exchanges and $800,000 on transport. The average tourist expended $140 — about $10 a day — on his visit here last year, compared with $117 in 1951 and $119 in 1952. These statistics, Mr. Irron said, indicate that the black market in tourist dollars seemingly is liquidated.

Organised tourism is on the upswing: 200 groups of 7,500 visitors (21% of the total) came to Israel during the year; half of them were pilgrims. One in three tourists was a non-Jew; about half of the non-Jews also visited neighbouring states.

Seven special cruise ships anchored in Israel ports in 1953.

About 3,000 tourist agents were contacted by the Centre and by Consulates during the year. El Al and Shoham have also played important parts in encouraging trade. The Centre has entered into agreements with three international airlines for tourist publicity.

Serving the People's Health!

To make a high-quality Tooth Paste available to the whole population for their daily mouth hygiene we prepared the AMAMIT Tooth Paste. It is cheaper than all others, yet of first quality, refreshing, concentrated and richly foaming. AMAMIT Tooth Paste is manufactured by Ikapharm Ltd. under the constant supervision of the Israel Dental Association. AMAMIT Tooth Paste is the ideal Dentifrice for the Family: Excellent, economical, worth its price. *(Advt.)*

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A ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON THE SUBJECT:
"COST ACCOUNTING TO THE ASSISTANCE OF FACTORY MANAGERS"
will be held in the three main cities under the auspices of the Institute of Productivity, according to the following time-table:

Date	Time	Place
Wed., Jan. 27, 1954	from 5 to 7 p.m.	Tel Aviv — "Tel Hai" Histadrut" School, near new Bet Ha'am Ha'ged.
Monday, Feb. 1, 1954	from 5 to 7 p.m.	Haifa — Carmelia Court, Rehov Herzliya.
Wed., Feb. 3, 1954	from 5 to 7 p.m.	Jerusalem — Bet Hahalutot, Rehovia.

PROGRAMME:
a) Lecture of Mr. William S. Leteon — U.N. Cost Accounting Expert, on "Cost Accounting to the assistance of the Factory Manager."
b) Lecture of Prof. S. Tzais on "Cost Accounting and Budget Control — essential in Production Planning."
c) Talk by Mr. M. Gershberg, Manager of the Institute of Productivity.
d) Film.

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EILAT FIRST

EILAT, Monday (ITIM). — The first demonstration in the brief history of this town took place today when some 40 housewives paraded before the District Office demanding an increase in the food supply from the North.

A spokesman of the Arava Authority told the demonstrators that he would settle the matter within a week whereupon the women dispersed, but not before warning him that they would stage a sit-down strike inside the Authority's offices if the promise was not kept.

Three consignments of 400 kilograms each of milk, eggs and vegetables are flown here weekly, but residents claim that this amount is insufficient.

'WORLD'S BIGGEST' OIL DRILLS TO HAND

BEERSHEBA, Monday. — Two giant percussion drills are now being assembled here by the Lapidot Oil Prospecting Company, for use at "Masal Two" and "Masal Three." The company's spokesman refused to reveal the sites of these two future operations.

According to men engaged on the assembly work, the new drills are "the largest in the world" and can bite through the hardest rock down to a depth of 10,000 feet. They are 60% heavier than that in use at Masal One, near Sdom, where drilling continues for 24 hours a day.

Israel Breaks Stop-Work Pledge — Damascus

Commenting on the statement of the Israel Cabinet on the Jordan River dispute, Damascus Radio yesterday declared that for Israel to regard the discussion at the Security Council as terminated means that Israel has broken its pledge to suspend work until a decision is reached.

The Israel interpretation is a clear distortion of the facts, Damascus Radio decided.

For the second time in a week the British-controlled Near East Arab Broadcasting Station told its listeners yesterday how bad it was for the Arabs that the U.S.S.R. had vetoed the Western proposal.

The Russian vote was not so much pro-Arab as anti-American, the commentator stated. Russian policy in the Middle East has never been guided by the best interests of the Arabs, but by the Soviet's own selfish ambitions.

The veto, the station believed negated the possibility that General Bennike might find a solution acceptable to all and gives Israel an excuse for resuming work.

US-SYRIAN TALKS

DAMASCUS, Monday (Reuter). —Syrian Foreign Minister Khali Mardam Bey today discussed "Arab questions" with U.S. Ambassador to Syria James Moose.

Syrian officials refuse to comment on reports that the U.S. has offered arms to Syria on condition they are not used against Israel.

Jordan River on Agenda Of US Envoys in Amman

WASHINGTON, Monday (UP) — U.S. officials said today that they expect that the plan for the development of the Jordan River will be one of the major topics at the meeting in Amman on Thursday and Friday of top American representatives to the Arab States and Israel.

They added that the gathering would probably also discuss:

1. The desirability of extending economic assistance to Middle East countries, with particular attention to the Egyptian and Syrian requests for aid.

2. The continuing Arab economic blockade of Israel.

3. The general economic effect in the Middle East of the continuing tensions in the area.

HAIFA BUDGET DEBATE BEGINS

HAIFA, Monday. — The general debate on the 1954/5 IL.11,848,000 draft budget opened in the town Council tonight. The first speaker, Mr. Y. Milson (General Zionist), had great doubts whether the Municipality could collect the estimated revenue and proposed a drastic cut in expenditure to "get used to living within our means."

Mr. R. Bunyak (Mapai) claimed that the Government's grant to the Municipality was being made on the principle of most aid for the least efficient, instead of encouraging those who did most to help themselves.

Haifa should get substantially more than it was getting. We wanted the budget of the Municipal Hospital increased. The debate was adjourned.

House of Wax
Longest Run in Film History

Warner's House of Wax, the first 3 dimensional picture of the major studio, starring Vincent Price, Phyllis Kirk, Frank Lovejoy, has been an outstanding success all over the world. The picture which has broken all previous cash records throughout the world, will be shown in Jerusalem as from January 30 at the Edison Cinema. House of Wax has brought in Philadelphia three times the daily receipts Pittsburgh 75% more than all time records. In Cleveland receipts netted the first four days as in a fortnight. London making showmanship history during 20 full weeks in the great Warner Cinema (as no other film before). Madrid and Brussels doubled the usual cash record. Paris showed a most outstanding success. Copenhagen, 17 sensational weeks (against the usual four weeks). In Stockholm 71 days broke previous records of a fortnight etc., etc... House of Wax the outstanding event for the picture goer will be presented first in Israel on January 30 in Jerusalem's Edison Cinema. *(Advt.)*

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Concerto Grosso No. 6 — Handel; Concerto for Piano & Orchestra in A-major — Mozart; Symphony in C-major "The Great" — Schubert.
Proceeds for the Disabled Veterans Fund of the War of Independence.
Distribution of tickets by members of the Disabled Veterans Fund and friends, and at the I.P.O. Office, 58 Allenby Rd. (11-3, 4-6).
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Sh'vat 12, 5714. Jumada-el-Uta 21, 1373

NOBLE minds meet on their own level and are capable of mutual understanding. In his tribute to Mr. Ben Gurion with **LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE** which he opened his statement presenting his new Government to the Knesset, Mr. Sharett gave yet another indication that he is eminently fitted to carry on the supreme task of leading Israel's Government in the spirit of the former Prime Minister, who had become, if one man could so personify it, the embodiment of the Jewish people facing its new tasks of nationhood.

David Ben Gurion was a man of stature and noted intellectual and spiritual gifts when he began his career in the Jewish national labour movement many years ago, and these qualities grew in him with the growth of the Zionist movement and the advance of the Yishuv towards sovereignty. He attained the greatness meet for every occasion, whether it was diplomacy, the grim arbitrament of war or the prolonged strain and effort of creating a government for the new political entity and keeping that Government in being.

For the vast masses of new immigrants, unschooled in the bewildering mazes of Western politics, the name Ben Gurion was the beacon which they followed and the light by which they formed their embryo political faith. While in office, he was an inspiration to the whole people, and the sense of the nation cannot even now accept his absence from the executive councils as anything other than temporary.

Mr. Sharett, in his address, presenting his new Cabinet to the Knesset, has shown that he has taken a firm grasp on the nation's helm and intends to pursue his high tasks with a sense of dedication and austere practicality. The emphasis which Mr. Sharett laid on his intention to seek an even broader basis of national unity will be welcomed, and it is to be hoped that the parties at present outside the coalition will react positively to the summons so seriously extended to them to join cooperatively in solving the urgent problems which now confront the nation.

It is to be hoped, too, that the call to citizens "without distinction of community or class... to rally to the support" of the Government, will be heeded. After the long weeks of party negotiation, such a remembrance of the citizen body is more than welcome, and the nation is eager and ready to follow the lead of a Government which will rule with wisdom and vision.

THE formation of the America-Israel Friendship Society announced earlier this week is a welcome reciprocation to the **HAND OF FRIENDSHIP** flourishing group of Israel-America Friendship Societies which are functioning with great success in Israel.

The purpose of the new society is to promote cultural relations and goodwill between the U.S. and this country and the distinguished list of sponsors is in itself a most encouraging sign of the wide support which this country enjoys from leaders of every important section of American life and thought. It numbers in its ranks leading churchmen, authors, statesmen, and thinkers: all of them names which have been associated in the public mind for years with what is most free and humanitarian in American thought.

Israel believes that there is much in common between the world's greatest democracy and the world's youngest, and that the new organization will be devoted to the task of cultivating this precious common ground.

PROFILE–SEC'Y DULLES

AS the Foreign Ministers assemble in Berlin, Mr. John Foster Dulles takes his place as one of the best-known characters in the world. But he never will be one of the best understood.

Until last January, when Mr. Dulles became Secretary of State, the common picture of him was that of a rather donnish, elderly gentleman who lectured on international peace and fellowship. Six months later, he had made speeches which allowed the impression to be given that he was out to bully West Europeans, risk the lives of the Eastern Europeans, and gamble with the peace of the world by advocating military action against the Chinese mainland. His name had become associated with bellicosity, insensitivity and indiscretion.

Some of his better-known "gaffes" seem to come from a kind of inbuilt personal clumsiness. Indeed, his awkwardness and lack of ease are what first strike a visitor. At 65, he is a large, heavy man, with a stoop; his voice is harsh and staccato; his manner shy, unsure — though not unfriendly. His dark suits, steel-rimmed spectacles, and drooping mouth give him a rather mournful, predatory look.

Despite this appearance, he likes a drink and a yarn; he has a dry sense of humour which sometimes explodes in a surprising Rabelaisian laugh. A life-long Presbyterian, his realistic attitude to power politics is astounding. His home life is notably happy, and he is devoted to his wife, but his son has left the Presbyterian fold and is a Roman Catholic. Calculating and devious, he gets carried away in debate and may say things he afterwards regrets. Outwardly aloof and gloomy, in private he is simple, unpretentious and informal.

Poker and Wilson

When he went up to Princeton, Mr. Dulles at first spent most of his time on poker and whist; then he became a pupil and friend of Woodrow Wilson. He imbibed the future President's vision of an international order of peace and stability based on Christian principles and democratic methods. On one of his vacations, he went as an attaché on his grandfather's staff to a Hague conference, where the main business was to try to "humanize" warfare, as a step towards eliminating it, by covenanting a set of "international laws." Soon after this, after a long spell of self-examination, Mr. Dulles decided to become a lawyer specialising in international law.

The formative experience on the intellectual level was the Versailles Peace Conference and its aftermath. Six years in the renowned New York law office of Sullivan and Cromwell — later, he become senior partner at the age of 37 — qualified Mr. Dulles to join the American delegation as an expert. His friendship with Wilson and his family tie with Lansing, the leader of the delegation, made it an exciting experience. But Mr. Dulles saw Wilson's hopes shattered — because American public opinion would not allow the President to carry out his policy. Since then Mr. Dulles has been almost obsessed by the importance of gaining public support before attempting bold moves in international affairs.

Republican Representative

Mr. Dulles himself was acceptable to both wings of the Republican Party — he was a boyhood friend of Senator Taft, who led the "isolationists," and a personal friend and foreign affairs mentor of Governor Dewey, leader of the "internationalists." He was therefore chosen to represent the Republican Party on the United States delegation at several important conferences and at the United Nations. In 1950 he was asked to negotiate the Japanese Peace Treaty on behalf of President Truman, to ensure that the Republicans in Congress would ratify it. He wrote the foreign policy statement for the 1952 Republicans' election campaign, and when they won it was almost inevitable that President Eisenhower should appoint him Secretary of State.

On taking office he judged that the main difficulty which confronted him was the tremendous decline of American public confidence in the State Department. Since he proposed in fact to maintain many of the policies of the Democratic Administration, Mr. Dulles judged that he must talk in a manner calculated to convince the American people that a new, bold and non-defeatist hand was at the helm. He said and did many things which were calculated to produce this effect, fully conscious that they would also put a great strain on the patience and confidence of American allies.

The best example is the case of the "unleashing" of General Chiang Kai-shek, accomplished by removing the American Seventh Fleet, which had "contained" the General on Formosa. For two and a half years a great section of American public opinion had believed that not only had the folly or treason of the State Department led to Chiang's defeat in China, but that, under pressure from Britain, the State Department used the American Navy to prevent him from re-establishing himself on the mainland. Mr. Dulles felt that this misconception could not be allowed to go on festering. President Eisenhower, therefore, in his inaugural address announced that the Seventh Fleet would be removed.

Many feared that this indicated Mr. Dulles's desire to force the issue in the Far East and even to extend the war. A year later, however, Chiang Kai-shek is still on Formosa, the chief propaganda weapon of the Republican extremists has been exhausted and there is a growing feeling in the United States that Chiang Kai-shek can never be re-established in China, and that therefore the Peking Government will one day have to be recognized as the true Government of China.

Uncompleted Task

Mr. Dulles has still got only a part of the way through his self-imposed task of creating an atmosphere of public confidence in the United States towards the Administration's foreign policy. He may never wholly succeed. He may have left his counter-attack on McCarthy's attempt to dictate American foreign policy too late; he may have been so complaisant with Congress that he will never be able to assert his authority. In that case his carefully calculated gamble will have failed. It is too early to tell. If Mr. Dulles succeeds and gains a freer hand in policy-making, what would be his aims? His general views are laid out in his book "War and Peace" published in 1950. The West, he says, must rearm to defend itself and deter aggression; but its real strength lies in the ultimate capacity of its way of life to attract enemies and neutrals to its side. He distrusts military diplomacy — "Civilians must be prepared to override the soldiers" — and criticises the Nato treaty because "it assumed a pattern that was essentially strategic... political values were lost which the military did not, and could not appraise."

On racial policy his views are forthright: "The policy of the Union of South Africa is, in fact, giving Communism the opportunity to precipitate a bloody struggle."

"Peace depends upon the growing internal difficulties of Soviet Communism and its inability to consolidate its conquests." As for inciting the satellites to revolt, "... These peoples (i.e., the populations of the satellites) have no arms, and violent revolt would be futile... We have no desire to weaken the Soviet Union at the cost of the lives of those who are our primary concern." On Communist China: "If the Communist Government of China in fact proves its ability to govern China without serious domestic resistance, then it, too, should be admitted to the United Nations... the United Nations will best serve the cause of peace if its Assembly is representative of what the world actually is, and not merely of the parts we like."

Is the paradox of this formidable figure, then, that he is an awkward old Wilsonian who has been trying to solve his public relations problem by talking like a Bismarck? — *Copyright.*

"I COULD HAVE WISHED FOR A BETTER SPOT"

ARRIVAL FOR CONFERENCE

Readers' Letters

HOUSING COMPARED

Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — Mr. Hugh Orgel, in his article "Britain Tackles Housing Problem" in *The Jerusalem Post* of January 11, compared the planning of Harlow to that of Afridar. Having seen some new post-war housing in England, I should imagine that Harlow New Town is both planned properly and built well, whereas the plan of Shikun Afridar may have been all right but the execution of the plan is neither pleasing to the eye of the visitor nor pleasant for the inhabitant.

If Mr. Orgel would take a good look around Afridar he could hardly help noticing garden sheds built next to the main roads in front of the houses and looking rather like public conveniences, roof tiles which "go with the wind"; paint peeling off doors and window frames; cracked walls; rain dripping into the houses through the walls, loose floor-tiles; and a lack of public gardens.

Yours etc.,
M. NOMIS

Ascalon, January 17.

BUS SERVICE

Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — In view of the forthcoming new rises in bus fares, much has been published on negotiations regarding the companies' account: purchase of spare parts, garage services, etc. The passenger who is compelled to avail himself of the Egged or Dan bus service cannot go into these details. He only knows that he has to encounter discourteous drivers who talk, change money and smoke while driving; he is pushed and squeezed; he has to waste hours in queues only to see a bus come to the first stop with friends of the driver already sitting in the best seats. If those responsible for the proper running of the buses would expose themselves to the torture and indignity which the passenger is forced to endure, our bus services might be improved.

Yours sct.,
S.M.

Tel Aviv January 13.

ANTI-RELIGIOUS LEAGUE

Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir — The advertisement of the Anti-Religious Coercion League in *The Jerusalem Post* of January 14 is illuminating. In the opinion of this League, the religious parties should wrangle about portfolios and ministries (as the General Zionists and Mapai have been doing for weeks) rather than insist on matters of religious principle in accordance with their voters' mandate.

The injection of the Goldrat Knesset Seat affair in the advertisement is further evidence, if any were needed, of the intolerance and bigotry of the advertisers. Neither Mr. Goldrat nor his party have anything to do with the "Seven Conditions" made by the parties which Mr. Sharett invited to join his coalition.

Yours etc.,
YOSHUA BENSION

Tel Aviv, January 14.

עוד עברי

לבתי הספר

[illegible]

בעזרת של בתרת-שערך

[illegible]

(b'het-em l...) in accordance with	בהתאם ל-
(har-ta-ha) promise	הבטחה
(ee-lam) but	אולם
(shs-ar) rate	שער
(m'na-ya) share	מניה
(nish-a-roo) remained, were left	נשארו
(ya-tsoov) stable	יציב
(nish-ta-per) improved	נשתפר
(t-ka-yem) you will	תקיים
(boor-sa) bourse, stock exchange	בורסה
(n'ya-rot e-rakh) securities	ניירות ערך
(big-lal) because of, owing to	בגלל
(bit-ta-hon) security	בטחון
(ma-he'zor) cycle	מחזור
(n'ti-ya) tendency	נטיה
(mas-bee-reem) explain	מסבירים
(bit-too-ah) insurance	ביטוח
(p'koo-da) order	פקודה
(k'ni-ya) purchasing, buying	קניה

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Ruins of Two Ages at Abde

By THEODOR F. MEYSELS

WITH the ascent to the plateau of the city's hill the ruins of Abde change their character. It is improbable that the Nabatean cave dwellings, hewn into the rock-face, were abandoned in the Byzantine era: the honey-coloured masonry of their collapsed fronts looks contemporary with that of the houses at the top. But as in Subeita, where the well-to-do lived on the hill and the poor in the ravine, so it seems that the officials and merchant princes of Abde lived on the "first floor" and the proletariat in the "basement" of the caverns.

The path reaches the hill top near a small quarter of fairly large, well-built houses which formed a suburb of the town consisting of fort and monastery, and were protected by the surrounding outer walls of buildings and gardens, like some older Jewish colonies of Galilee. All these mansions are variants of the central-court type, common in the Orient to this day. The walls that lined the streets were unbroken, since all windows faced inwards on to the courts, and no attempt at external decoration was made. The sky-line, broken by the lofty naves and tall campaniles of the churches may have been picturesque, but the narrow lanes of a Byzantine town in the Negev must have been as dull and unsavoury as those of any Syrian "old city" of today.

All the cisterns in the courtyards still hold water and the gypsum plaster sticks to the walls. Coarse, ribbed Byzantine potsherds are strewn around in profusion, but we hunted in vain for Nabatean fragments. This pottery of sophisticated delicacy in decor and eggshell fineness is incomparably rarer than the best Greek ware. To my knowledge, only three intact vessels survive in all the museums of the world. Every sherd, decorated with fine leaf pattern under the transparent glaze, is a cherished collector's piece. I believe, moreover, that what we call "Nabatean pottery" today, was a costly luxury for the Nabateans, produced in some exclusive workshop near the Trans-Jordan Capital, while something like the cheap ribbed ware was in daily household use. One may also assume that Nabateans of high social position were laid to rest in Trans-Jordan family tombs since nothing comparable to the necropoles of Petra or Medain Salih (with the single exception, perhaps, of the isolated Tomb of Mesor) has ever been discovered west of the Jordan.

Nabatean Temple

A cyclopean platform on the plateau between the suburb and the fortress has been identified as a Nabatean highplace. This house of worship was obviously the predecessor of the large Nabatean Temple of Hellenistic design but primitive execution, into the ruins and on the platform of which the Byzantine monastery church was placed so that the northern peristyle was used to divide the aisles of the church, the western aisle to serve as a portico. The great church of Gerasa was similarly built into the main temple and the first Church of the Holy Sepulchre also made use of the shrine of Jerusalem's city goddess.

However, this part of Abde has been so thoroughly shaken by consecutive earthquakes that the two unrelated elements in its construction are visible only from the outside. To the West, the large monastery adjoins the large rectangular fort, which is well preserved and astonishingly reminiscent of a modern police station. Its up-country equivalent is the fortress of Antipatris. There also, the inner square of the fort houses no permanent buildings of any importance. In times of emergency, shelters for the population were put up within the walls, strengthened by corner towers and bastions. The combination of fort and monastery, the inhabitants of which were often more doughty and warlike than Byzantine mercenaries, is typical of the "Maginot Line" with which Justinian tried in vain to protect his eastern borders against the nomads of the desert. El Auja, Abde and Kurnub were the main links of this chain of military-monastic positions in the Negev. On the Madeba Map or the "Tabula Peutingeriana," this system of defence must have looked very impressive, but it did not inconvenience the Saracens in any way.

On the "Tabula Peutingerina" (the surviving Roman road map) Abde is an important stop on the road from Gaza to Elat. The Kaolin road follows the trace of this ancient highway so closely that various Roman milestones still stand along it. We drove on for about 26 kms. to Mitzpe Ramon, the rock eyrie, from the summit of which the gigantic oval of the Makhtesh Ramon may be seen, presenting a view that may well stand comparison with Colorado's most magnificent canyons. Deep down at the bottom of the enormous crater, the ground is dotted with

Abde's "fortress." Photo by Muhlstock

areas which recall the sites of large conflagrations — outcrops of manganese ore. A low hill carries the broken walls of a blockhouse that guarded the road, when the caravans from the Red Sea toiled up the ancient trail.

The edge of the Makhtesh is a geological El Dorado, fantastically rich in fossils. My friends, not prone to dizzy spells, filled their bags with perfect specimens of Ammonites and Trilobites. These

Rambler's Notebook

stone-embalmed inhabitants of a sea that receded several million years ago, were convincingly genuine. But one might harbour some doubts as to whether the many "stone implements" they also picked up were really artefacts. This is a land of flints: everywhere the exposed limestone has been eaten away by the winds and the flints of the alternate strata have slipped forward until the slopes are red with them. Nodules are cracked into numberless pieces; others were splintered before the stone formed around them. Along every yard of ground one may see what might well pass as worked flints. But not even a metropolitan population could have discarded so many true paleolithic tools. Natural or artefact, everyone picked up a flint-knife, perfectly suitable for peeling oranges.

As long as the Kaolin Road terminates at Km. 85 in the Makhtesh Ramon, there is no point in descending. Thus we turned back to Beersheba, where we arrived at the amusing moment, when the homing coach-tourists swiftly filled the deserted cafes. The party, we observed, included a gentleman who looked like a general of the Russian Air-Force. In fact, he was the official guide, who manoeuvred the prettiest girl into a window seat, where he entertained her without taking any further notice of the rest of his group. This should be noted as an example of exactly how not to behave as a tourist guide.

We were thoroughly encrusted with desert sand and took a basin of hot water from the cafe to the neighbouring hotel, where the landlady was receiving her friends and relations in the lobby. Rather pointedly we informed her that "in order not to trouble the management we had brought our own hot water". "Good", she said, graciously granting a licence for bringing in water, and again focussed her attention upon her own guests.

Mustering strength for the ever-recurring ordeal of shaving, I noticed a little man on the patio who, years ago, catered for my toilet requirements in Jerusalem's cafes. "Could you sell me some razor blades?" I enquired.

"I could only oblige you with a *Hojia*" was the surprising answer. "I am now a camel contractor".

My former peripathetic salesman, of razor blades, so I was informed, now made his living by buying and selling camels. He introduced me to his two Druse assistants whose profiles certified them as camel experts, and, in a nearby courtyard, showed me the 15 strong humpbacks he had acquired to fulfil a contract to carry manure to the sandy vineyards of Migdal Ascalon. "And what will you do with these creatures when the work is done?" I wanted to know. "I shall sell them back to the Beduin for their ploughing season, and make an additional profit," he twinkled.

This is the second of two articles on the Kaolin Road. The first appeared on January 19.

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By CLARENCE L. BERNHART

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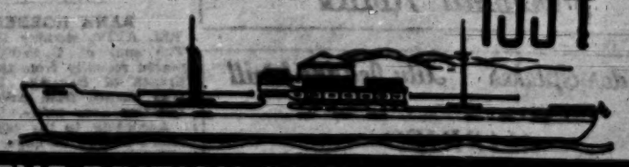

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